



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
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## **School Committee Minutes 01-28-2003**

**THE ARLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**JANUARY 28, 2003**  
**6:30 PM**

**Present:** David McKenna, Chair  
Suzanne Owayda, Vice-Chair  
Paul Schlichtman, Secretary  
Barbara Goodman  
Joani LaMachia  
Denis Sullivan (exited at 9:00 pm)  
Martin Thrope

**Superintendent:** Kay Donovan  
**Chief Financial Officer:** David Kale  
**Special Education Director:** Marilyn Bisbicos  
**Budget Analyst:** Janet Collins  
**Student Representative:** Sean Garballey

**Absent:** Joanne Gurry

Call To Order: 6:35 pm

### **BUDGET**

The Superintendent explained that Finance Committee requested that ASC submit a budget to them by February 1<sup>st</sup>. Two budgets will be submitted, a level service budget and a budget that reflects the 5.1 million dollars in reductions. Supt. Donovan suggested that the School Committee not vote to accept the budget submitted but rather to direct the Superintendent to forward the budget to the Finance Committee with a statement of the ramifications to Arlington Public Schools if enacted. Mrs. Donovan also recommended that the Finance Committee look at free cash, stabilization funds and any and all other sources of income to see if there are any supports that could be given to our budget and to request that the Finance Committee deliberate and recommend to the Board of Selectmen an override if the cuts are a realization.

On a motion by Ms. Goodman, seconded by Ms. LaMachia and amended by Ms. Owayda it was unanimously

Voted that the Arlington School Committee present a level service budget as well as a budget that reflects \$5.1 million dollars worth of cuts to the Finance Committee and the Board of Selectmen as requested. An impact statement will accompany said budgets that portrays the devastation such cuts will have on our educational programs; in addition it is the hope of the School Committee that the Town will work together to look at other revenue sources either in the town budget or elsewhere to further support education.

Supt. Donovan and David Kale presented the various revolving accounts.

Committee Members discussed:

- .. The idea that compliance with state law should be included in fixed costs
- .. Reviewed net school spending
- .. Exploration of increasing non-general funds to possibly generate a surplus to offset other costs
- .. A line item budget
- .. To hear from principals and department heads to explain the full impact of some of the proposed cuts
- .. The need for an override and why the community should vote for it
- .. Emphasis that the school committee is not approving the budget or the cuts at this point

Supt. Donovan will invite principals and department heads to the next school committee meeting.

Mr. Schlichtman stated that if there is a marked decrease in the level of service in the town that it is not up

to the Board of Selectmen or the 250 town meeting members, but that the town as a whole should decide if they are in favor of an override.

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Amy Cohen Town-Wide PTO president, voiced concern over icy sidewalks and crosswalks in and around schools. She also conveyed that at its meeting the Town wide PTO agreed to fundraise to help preserve some school programs if necessary. Currently the PTO meets four times a year, Ms Cohen suggested that a committee consisting of two school committee members, the Superintendent and the CFO meet to decide how any funds raised should be dispersed.

Charles Kazarian spoke relative to the impending budget cuts urging the School Committee to send a strongly worded statement to the Board of Selectmen advocating for the schools.

### **HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

.. Introductions - Marissa Brigget past chair of the HRC introduced Kevin McGann as the newly elected chair of the commission and Kim Lam as the newest school committee appointee.

### **MENOTOMY PRESCHOOL TUITION INCREASE**

Ms. Cronin, Director of Menotomy Preschool presented the Committee with three options for a tuition increase and projected income levels

On a motion by Mr. Sullivan seconded by Ms. Goodman and amended by Mr. Schlichtman it was Voted to approve the recommended tuition of \$150.00 per year with an additional increase of \$90.00 for out of town students enrolled at Menotomy Preschool. Roll Call 5-2 motion carries (Ms. LaMachia and Mr. McKenna voted no).

On a motion by Mr. Thrope and seconded by Ms. Owayda it was Moved to increase tuition at MPS by \$150.00 with and additional \$45.00 across the board with the contemplation of a similar increase next year. 6-1 motion fails (Mr. Thrope yes)

On a motion by Mr. Sullivan and seconded it was Moved to reconsider the original vote. RC: 5-2 motion fails (Mr. Sullivan and Mr. McKenna – yes)

### **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Mr. Schlichtman reviewed correspondence.

On a motion by Mr. Schlichtman and seconded by Ms. Goodman it was unanimously Voted to approve the regular meeting minutes of December 10, 2002. (Mr. Sullivan abstained)

### **APPROVAL OF WARRANT**

On a motion by Mr. Thrope and seconded by Mr. Sullivan it was unanimously Voted to approve Warrant # 03093, in the amount of \$210,313.15.

Chairman McKenna reminded the Committee of the importance of the warrant being signed in a timely manner in order for employees and vendors to receive payments. Mr. McKenna also suggested reviewing the warrant procedure before the end of the school year since it would mean that Members of the Committee must be available over the summer to approve all warrants.

### **PTBC UPDATE**

Ms. Owayda reported that the Dallin School is moving forward on becoming certified as a LEAD School (a Leadership Energy and Environmental Design school). As such the PTBC is eligible for a \$20,000.MTC grant. Supt. Donovan reported on the proposed reduction in square footage for the Dallin School in an attempt at reducing the cost of construction. By reducing the overall size of the Dallin School by 2,700 square feet there could be a savings of approximately \$378,000.00. The PTBC would like the building ready to go to bid so that it can be brought forward at the spring Town Meeting.

Mr. Thrope moved that the School Committee rescind its Dallin School vote of December 10, 2002 and expresses its full support to the PTBC including approval in moving forward. No second on the motion.

On a motion by Ms. Owayda, seconded by Mr. Sullivan it was unanimously:

Voted that the Arlington School Committee give their full support to the PTBC for their work on the Dallin, Stratton and Thompson Schools, Ms. Goodman amended the motion to acknowledge Suzanne Owayda for her hard work on the PTBC.

### **Break**

The School Committee viewed the President's State of the Union address.

## **SPECIAL EDUCATION FINANCE DATA UPDATE**

Tabled until the next meeting.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

- .. Board of Selectmen Meeting – rescheduled for February 10<sup>th</sup>
- .. Expansion of CORI Statute – Supt. Donovan reported that although the new CORI requirements have been referred to the policy & procedures subcommittee, due to the time frame of the expanded CORI Statute that she is required to send letters to all present employees requesting permission to redo their CORI.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Peirce School Dedication – Supt. Donovan presented a proposal to name the curriculum driveway in front of the Peirce School after former school superintendent Walter Devine. Mr. Devine was an APS employee from 1971 through 1993 serving as a science teacher, the Director of Pupil Personnel Services, Director of Guidance and as the Superintendent of Schools for ten years.

On a motion by Ms. Goodman and seconded by Ms. LaMachia it was unanimously Voted to name the circular driveway at the Peirce School “Devine Way”

On a motion by Ms. Goodman and seconded by Ms. Owayda it was Voted to enter executive session for the purpose of Contract Negotiations, Impact Bargaining, and Legal Issues with no further business to be conducted upon return to open session except to adjourn. RC: Unanimous

## **Executive Session from 10:15 pm to 10:55**

On a motion made and seconded it was voted to adjourn @ 10:55 pm.

Submitted by  
Karen Tassone  
Committee Secretary